

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appl. No. 09/686,959
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q61232

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please enter the following amended paragraphs.

Page 20, at the beginning of the page.

a1
The backup memory 36 functions as the temperature information storing means or temperature information storing section of the present invention, and comprises a storing section 46 for storing the head temperature information obtained by the sensor I/F 33 and a power source supplies section 47 constituted of a secondary cell, a capacitor and the like. The power source supplies section 47 functions as power source supply means, and supplies a backup power source to the storing section 46 in order to hold stored contents even during the time when the main power source is turned off.

Page 21, beginning at line 8.

a2
As shown in Fig. 4, the control section 38, other than the above-described constitution, comprises an ink reservation amount obtaining means 61, temperature change amount obtaining means 62 and ink consumption controlling means 63. It will be appreciated that these components may also be referred to as an ink reservation amount obtaining section, a temperature change amount obtaining section, and an ink consumption controlling section.

Page 23, beginning at line 7.

a3
Here, the driving signal generating circuit or section 40 functions as the driving signal generating means in the present invention, and generates a driving signal for working the piezoelectric element 23 of the recording head 11. For example, the circuit generates a driving signal (COM) in which a plurality of driving pulses are connected in series as shown in Fig. 7(a).

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Page 37, beginning at line 6.

Q4 The ink consumption amount controlling means or section 63 controls the flushing of the recording head 11 to control ink consumption accompanied with ink ejection during flushing. Concretely, in response to the temperature change amount of the recording head obtained by the temperature change amount obtaining means 62 and the ink reservation amount obtained by the ink reservation amount obtaining means 61, the ink consumption amount controlling means 63 selects specified adjustment data from the preparatory ejection operation adjustment data stored in the wrong 37 to control the preparatory ejection controlling means 64 based on the selected adjustment data. Thus, the ink consumption amount controlling means 63 adjusts the driving signal of the flushing, the number of ejection times and intervals, ejection cycles and the like per one flushing.

Page 43, beginning at line 29.

Q5 In the above-described embodiments 1 to 6, the ink consumption amount ejected from the recording head 11 during the recording operation and the preparatory ejection operation or controlled based on the ink reservation amount in the temperature change amount. However, in the embodiment 7, a micro-vibration drive controlling means for making the recording head 11 perform the micro-vibration drive that educates the ink in the pressure chamber 24 and a changing means for adjusting the control of this micro-vibration drive controlling means based on the ink reservation amount and the temperature change amount are further provided. It will be appreciated that the micro-vibration drive controlling means may be referred to also as a micro-vibration drive controlling section and that the changing means may be referred to as a changing section.